

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method ~~for annotating a query component~~, comprising:
receiving a selection of ~~the query component~~, ~~the query component being a~~ portion of a query having a plurality of portions ~~containing fields and query logic~~;
annotating the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query responsive to receiving, via an interface: (i) an annotation for the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query and (ii) a request to ~~associate the annotation with~~ annotate the selected query component portion of the query with the annotation ~~via an interface allowing a user to create the annotation and request the association with the selected query component~~; and
storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query comprises one or more query conditions.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query comprises one or more instance values of data, where instance values are any particular value inputted in a field.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing an interface for building the query by specifying query components portions; and
wherein receiving an indication of the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query comprises receiving a user selection of one or more query components portions specified, via the interface, for use in the query.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query, the suggested substitution being selectable to replace the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the ~~one or more query components~~ portion of the query comprises:
decomposing the ~~query component~~ portion of the query into one or more fragments; and
storing the fragments with the annotation.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the ~~one or more query components~~ portion of the query comprises:
substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the ~~query component~~ portion of the query; and
storing the ~~query component~~ portion of the query with the parameter marker with the annotation.

8-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program for ~~annotating query components~~ which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a selection of the ~~query component~~, the ~~query component~~ being a portion of a query having a plurality of portions ~~containing fields and query logic~~;
annotating the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query responsive to receiving, via an interface: (i) an annotation for the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query and (ii) a request to ~~associate the annotation with~~ annotate the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query with the annotation via an interface allowing a user to

~~create the annotation and request the association with the selected query component;~~
and

storing, on a storage device, the annotation with a reference to the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise providing an interface allowing the user to create a suggested substitution for the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein storing the annotation with a reference to the ~~one or more query components~~ portion of the query comprises:

substituting a parameter marker for an instance value contained in the ~~query component~~ portion of the query; and

storing the ~~query component~~ portion of the query with the parameter marker with the annotation.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

monitoring one or more ~~query components~~ portions specified for use in a query;

searching for annotations associated with the one or more ~~query components~~ portions; and

providing an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more ~~query components~~ portions.

22-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:
receiving a selection of ~~the query component~~, the ~~query component~~ being a portion of a query having a plurality of portions ~~containing fields and query logic~~;

providing an interface allowing a user to create an annotation and request an association between the annotation and to annotate the selected query component portion of the query with the annotation;

in response to receiving the annotation and the request, annotating the selected query component with the annotation by storing, on a storage medium, the annotation with a reference to the selected ~~query component~~ portion of the query;

monitoring one or more ~~query~~ components portions specified for use in a query being composed in a query building interface;

searching for stored annotations associated with the one or more query ~~components~~ portions; and

outputting an indication of one or more annotations, if found, associated with the one or more query ~~components~~ portions.

Please add the following new claims:

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the query comprises a database query.
32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected portion of the query comprises at least one of a query condition, an instance value in the query condition, a specified result field, and a specified formatting of the result field.
33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the query comprises an abstract query posed against a database abstraction model for a physical database.
34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the database abstraction model defines a plurality of logical fields that each define: (i) a logical field name, (ii) an access method, and (iii) a location in the physical database for accessing respective data elements in the physical database.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the access method is selected from at least two different access method types, wherein each different access method type defines a different manner of exposing specified data retrieved from a physical data field.